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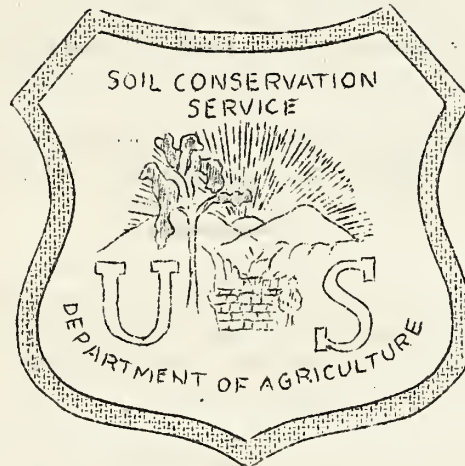
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# DAKOTA ZEPHYR

OCTOBER 1935

VOL 1 NUMBER 5



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PROJECT NO 33, HURON, S. DAK.

# A GIANT IN THE EARTH

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In the olden days, giants were supposed to roam the earth seeking whom they could destroy.

In this day and age there is a Giant abroad in the land doing more damage than all the fabulous giants could have done had they been as powerful as they were imagined to be. This roaring, devastating, devouring monster is the GIANT EROSION, and here is what he has done and is still doing to destroy Humanity:

"Three billion tons of soil--enough to fill a train of freight cars girding the earth 10 times at the equator --are washed and blown from the fields of this country every year.

"More than 300 million tons of the richest soil on earth -- soil stripped from the fertile fields of the Mississippi Valley -- are dumped each year into the Gulf of Mexico by the mighty Father of Waters.

"Four hundred million dollars is the estimated annual toll of erosion in terms of money value.

"Fifty million acres of once fertile farm land -- an area almost equal to the combined extent of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Connecticut -- have been completely destroyed and abandoned.

"One hundred and twenty five million areas more have been seriously impoverished by loss of productive topsoil.

"Two hundred thousand acres are being abandoned every year because erosion has rendered them barren and unfit for productive cultivation."

And now is the time for every man to become a "Jack the Giant Killer", for the GIANT EROSION is still roaring through the Land.

J. G. H.

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# THE DAKOTA ZEPHYR

Published Monthly  
For the Benefit of Soil Conservation Cooperators  
By the Staff of Soil Conservation Project No. 33  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Huron, South Dakota  
H. J. Clemmer, Regional Director

Editor: J. G. Hutton

Contributors: Members of the Staff

Volume 1.

OCTOBER 1935

No. 5

Greetings, Cooperators and Friends! Please remember that the "Zephyr" is prepared especially for you and that we are trying to make every word as valuable to you as possible. If you will put this number with the others and tie them together, you will soon have a soil conservation book with much practical information in it.

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The increasing interest on the part of bankers associations, transportation companies, and other business and industrial concerns is a hopeful indication. The Agricultural Committee of the American Bankers Association has recently published a well illustrated bulletin on Conserving Soil Resources. The Great Northern Railroad has published a nicely illustrated circular on "Strip Farming."

If land owners and operators will take the lead in soil conservation, they may be assured of the support of all groups that are in any way connected with the business of farming. We need to march along together in this nation-wide program in conserving the nation's basic resource, the soil.

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Arrow heads which were evidently plowed under with the virgin sod on some of the sites of the native camping or hunting grounds have been exposed at many points where the top-soil has been removed by the wind. Boy Scouts and others have made collections of these interesting relics of a race long since departed from this locality.

People living at a distance have made inquiry at the Soil Conservation Office as to how they might make contact with the collectors who might have arrow heads for sale. Here is one crop produced by soil erosion for which there seems to be some demand.

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The Soil Conservation Service is suggesting that those who live outside the project demonstration areas study their soil problems and if there seems to be a need for a soil conservation program to form a local Soil Conservation Association. Information concerning the formation of these associations may be secured from the Soil Conservation office at Huron, South Dakota.

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Save the top-soil and you save everything.

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# SEEING AND BELIEVING.

## AN EYE OPENER IN SOIL CONSERVATION WORK IN SOUTH DAKOTA

I. N. Chapman  
Soil Conservationist in Farm Management  
Huron, South Dakota

To understand fully the problem of soil conservation in the wind eroded areas and the best methods to use in the solution of this problem one should have the opportunity of viewing it first-hand. There is no better method of studying how to remedy diseases than to watch the development of the disease and the effect of the medicine given for its control. This is the purpose of the demonstrational work being carried on in the Shue Creek-Wolsey areas, Beadle County, South Dakota. The work of the Soil Conservation Service in these areas has reached the point where its benefits may be studied from the comparison of the blowing of the land under cooperative agreement and the blowing of the land not under cooperative agreement.

Already the demonstrations in these two areas have attracted a number of parties of interested men. The members of the field force of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, two groups of them, have already made the trip over the area and studied the work being done. A convention of agricultural supervisors of insurance companies, 43 in number, have also made a tour of the area. A number of railway officials prominent in the handling of the railroads which are fed by these farming communities have gone over the areas studying the effects of the work of the Soil Conservation Service and planning to do everything in their power to further its operations. The trips have been made on days suitable and convenient for the men interested. The Soil Conservation Service, with headquarters at Huron, South Dakota, are always glad to go over the area with interested groups of men, showing them the work that is being done, the appearance of the land not under cooperative agreement, the damage done by the wind, and the results secured from the preventative methods being used.

Perhaps, the story would be better told if we would quote from letters received from two of the men who have made the trip over the area. Both of these letters tell the same story of a new and broader realization of the damage wrought to this wonderful farming section by five years of insect pest devastation, of excessive drought and of high winds.

The following is an extract of a letter written by Mr. A. Kopperud, Treasurer of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, 8th District, Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Kopperud, in his discussion, gives the steps taken by the tour through the demonstrational area. Mr. Kopperud says:

"On September 25, 1935, a group of twelve people, consisting of representatives from the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, and its fieldmen, enjoyed a tour directed by Soil Conservation Service, of the work being done by the Soil Conservation Department, of the United States Department of Agriculture, in South Dakota.

"Although the wind was slight, the gentle breeze restlessly stirred the silty sand, and blew it into our eyes. On a real windy day, you couldn't have faced it. The main road was blockaded by a breast-high drift a half-mile long. The drift completely filled the section line from fence to fence. Uncovered posts here and there were bright with a sand polish from numerous storms. The devastation of this once rich and profitably productive farm land reminded one of a ghastly, deserted battlefield.

"Life-destroying forces had been turned loose to annihilate Nature's countless centuries of constructive efforts, and the pioneering work of two generations of earnest farmers.

"The picture of warlike wastefulness was made even more vivid when we entered the deserted farm yard of the Giester homestead. Windows were broken out, doors blown open, barn roof sagging down, barn walls caving in, fences drifted over, and a splendid flowing well running wild over a yard filled with dust hummocks which were scattered about like banks of earth churned by heavy artillery.

"The family had been driven away by the many attacks of drifting soil. Their neighbors had been separated and scattered to the ends of the earth - fourteen families in the immediate community were forced to desert their comfortable homes because of this awful warfare of the savage and relentless wind. One could not help but ask, isn't there some way to stop this deadly destruction of soil and humanity?

"That place was a revelation to me! The last time I had paid careful attention to the Jungemann farm was in the early spring of this year. It was on a windy day. I stood between the Jungemann house and barn. I could scarcely see either one. The clouds of swirling dust enveloped me like a raging black blizzard. It pained the lungs to breathe. The surrounding fields were a veritable Sahara Desert. All it needed to make the desert comparison more realistic was a few camels standing in the lee of a dust bank - and it required but very little imagination to see them.

"But, on the day of our project visit all of that was changed. The drifted dirt had been removed from around the buildings, from the fences, from the trees, and from the highway. The horse-high hummocks in the fields were leveled down. Alternating rows of corn and small grain, planted in diagonal strips at right angles to the prevailing winds, had taken complete possession of the fields. A healthy growth of sweet clover was already at work restoring the wasted vital elements of the top-soil.

"The neat appearance of the farm yard gave ample evidence that the good, thrifty German farmer who lives here had again taken heart. He had been encouraged to stick it out. He was continuing his fight to maintain his family and to save his home - a home which he himself had wrestled from the wilderness nearly fifty years ago.

"The Soil Conservation Service representatives first took the group to the Agricultural Hall at the State Fair grounds, in Huron, where they explained an exhibit showing what had been accomplished and what they hoped to accomplish through the Soil Erosion Control work.

"Following the reviewing of the exhibit, the group then went to the field, where the actual soil erosion control work is being carried on. Here the damage done by drifting soil was pointed out. Not only does the drifting soil damage the field from which it is blown, but also impairs the adjoining land, fences, and farm buildings. At the various stops, it was pointed out how careless farming had aided soil erosion and how a well-planned cropping system, when properly followed, would partially, if not wholly, eliminate soil erosion and also supply an abundance of good feed for livestock on the farm.

"One needs only to see how barren fields have been taken and changed into productive pieces of land to realize the importance of the work that is being carried on by the Soil Conservation Service.

"It was stated that the hope of the department is through education and demonstration, to teach the people that, while the greater gave the soil to us to be used for the production of food, it is our duty to use this land properly and protect it.

"The outstanding facts brought out in the tour were the comparatively small amount of vegetation necessary to prevent soil erosion, the excellent results that have been obtained through proper cultivation and cropping, and the necessity of a well planned procedure of work, and the carrying out of the work as planned."

Another letter was received from one of the members of these tours which gives such a thorough discussion of the whole tour, and of the condition of the area before the tour was made, that I feel sure that it will be intensely interesting. Mr. W. M. Willy, fieldman for the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, in discussing this tour and general situation before and after, says:

"The tour was an eye-opener.

"If there are any doubting Thomases, that first stop on the Karnstrum 480-acre farm certainly convinced them of the tremendous need for an adequate program to cope with the terrific damage caused by wind erosion.

"It gave one a depressed feeling, standing in that once beautiful farm yard, to see the huge drifts of top soil piled like banks of driven snow around the excellent farm buildings. The buildings must have cost \$15,000, and are now surrounded by hundreds of acres of barren fields. It made a sorry picture.



"The forces of engineering, of agronomy, of forestry, of farm management, of education, and of inspiration which you have marshalled on the Jungmann farm point the way to rehabilitation of drifting wind blown areas. The results already accomplished here by the Soil Conservation work of the United States Department of Agriculture conclusively prove that wind damaged areas can be controlled, and better yet, restored to usefulness of their present owners.

"Two things stand out predominantly in my memory of our trip with you. They are:

First: The immense benefits which cooperators on a project receive from the Federal Government. No one individual could begin to do for himself what the Government freely offers to do for him.

Second: The menace to private and community welfare which a non-cooperator constitutes. His farm not only ruins itself, its improvements, its operator and its owner, but it wastes its drifting top soil on its neighbors, neutralizing and destroying their efforts to restore their soil and to save their homes.

"It seems to me that the reclamation and conservation of the soil is important enough to warrant the compulsory cooperation of all land owners within a soil conservation project. Such compulsion is as rational as the community cooperation demanded by the State in conquering a contagious disease.

"I again want to thank the Soil Conservation Service heartily for the taking of the time from a very busy day to 'give us the works.' I assure the Service that our organization will gladly continue their cooperation in this great program."

The foregoing letters simply prove the old statement that 'seeing is believing', and bring out again the fact that when men really become interested and are willing to enter into the study of the remedies which may be used in correcting the evils of that project, they are ready then to work for its higher development. Such is the case with these leaders in the agricultural world today. The farmers with whom these men come in contact will be benefitted by the study made of these demonstrational areas.

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"It is the first business of every farmer to reduce the fertility of the soil, by removing the largest crops of which the soil is capable; but ultimate failure results for the landowner unless provision is made for restoring and maintaining productiveness. Every landowner should adopt for his land a system of farming that is permanent,--a system under which the land becomes better rather than poorer."

# SAVING THE RAIN

## WATER CONSERVATION ON PROJECTS NEAR HURON

By L. C. Tschudy  
Chief Engineer, S. C. S.,  
Huron, S. D.

What is water conservation? That is saving water that flows off the fields and down coulees to streams and then into the rivers. You immediately say, "if we had rain now, none of the water would flow away because the soil is dry." You are quite correct, but there usually are periods even in the driest years, when the snow melts and when some of the water runs off. How can we, as individuals, conserve water?

One way is by terracing. If we could only conserve the melting snows, heavy spring rains or other rains so that all the moisture which falls would never leave the field, this would be water conservation. What does a terrace look like? You have all seen the dead furrow from ploughing and you have seen back furrows. Imagine a line on a field that is level, and then at the same time, imagine an extra wide and deep, dead furrow and right next to the dead furrow on the down hill side, imagine an extra large back furrow and you have your terrace. Terraces are usually spaced from 60 to 125 feet apart so that any rain, or melting snows that may flow off the field, will be caught in this dead furrow channel, or as we call it, the terrace channel. Then the water flows along this channel so very, very slow that most of it is soaked up by the soil. When a sloping field has level terraces spaced at proper intervals, each one of these terrace channels acts as a storage reservoir and allows this water to soak into the soil and be used by the plants during the growing season. It seems reasonable to assume that the more moisture that is stored within the soil in the early spring, the more likely there will be a better chance for a crop. The surface of the soil may be dry in the summer, but if there is an added reserve deeper in the soil, the plant roots can reach down and use this moisture to mature. That is what we feel terraces will accomplish. Surely if the farmer can get 10 bushels of wheat to the acre without terracing, he should get an increase in yield if he has level terraces to conserve and store all waste water on his field. There are cases where this has actually been proven. In certain areas in Texas, level terraces have been known to increase the yield from 10 to 40%.

Not every field should be terraced. Please keep that in mind, but there are many fields that could be terraced, and there is no doubt that benefits would be derived from terracing on these fields. You ask, "How do I know whether my field should be terraced?"

Most of you people know the Soil Conservation Service has two demonstrational projects near Huron, one near Wolsey and one northeast and east of Huron. If your farm is within either of these areas, we are allowed to construct terraces on any of these farms. However, we are not allowed to do any work unless you are one of our cooperators. If you are interested in terracing or water conservation, come to our office on Wisconsin Avenue, or see one of our field representatives, and one of our engineers will look over your field, and make his recommendations. It is necessary for one of our engineers to look over this work before final approval can be given for any terracing, as I explained before, not all fields should be terraced. If this field is suitable for terracing, we will explain just how the terraces work. Then, if you desire to have some work done, we will make our plans to do this construction. We sincerely believe that this method of water conservation by level terracing, as explained above, will be beneficial to the farmers.

The other way to conserve water is by constructing small dams to catch some of the spring flows and store it in the basin created, which is called the reservoir. By storing this water in the spring, water will seep into the ground and quite often this has been known to raise the water level of wells near the reservoir. A small dam need not be large to bring benefits to your farm. It may be 5 feet or 10 feet, or 15 feet high depending on the location and its use. These reservoirs furnish ideal places for stock watering and during dry periods, this may mean a saving in hauling water to keep your stock from dying of thirst. It is a wonderful feeling to know that you have a permanent water supply and a small dam tends to give you that security. Small lakes furnish an ideal place for recreation and for water fowl. The shore lines are excellent places to plant trees.

Any farmer who is interested in small dam construction can have his dam site investigated by one of our engineers. We will survey this, and if the location meets our requirements for constructing a good dam, we will make plans for construction. The farmer must be a cooperator in our Soil Conservation program and he must furnish all the materials necessary to construct the spillway. This means the farmer furnishes the cement and sand; and it is desirable to have him furnish teams or tractor, if possible; and the Soil Conservation Service furnishes the engineering investigation, supervision of construction, and W. P. A. labor hauls the rock and moves the earth in the dam. After figuring the total cost of the dam, according to the above arrangement, the farmer furnishes from 10 to 20%, and the Soil Conservation Service furnishes from 80 to 90% of the cost. That would mean if the dam cost a total of \$1,000., the farmer would pay from \$100. to \$200. and the Soil Conservation Service would pay for the remainder, or from \$800. to \$900. of the cost.

At the present time, we are constructing one dam on the Nels Madsen farm near Carpenter, and when this dam is completed, I am sure there will be many farmers who will envy Mr. Madsen. We are constructing a dam for Severt Osmanson near Wolsey, also. Terraces have been constructed on the Madsen, Ed Staum, and Harry Birks farms near Carpenter, and we are constructing terraces on the Ralph Mead and John Garrity farms on the Wolsey Area.



If any farmers wish to inspect this work, especially if you desire terracing or small dams, I'm sure we will be able to arrange time so that someone can show you this work. After you have seen some of this work, you may decide you are passing an opportunity if you do not have some of this work done on your farm. It may be your farm is not suitable for terracing or, perhaps, you have no location for a dam, but if you have possible locations for this work, we want to give you every chance to see the benefits of this water conservation program in our Huron areas.

I might say, in closing, that about 250 small dams have been constructed in North Dakota by the CCC Camps. I have had the direction of supervision of this work, and have been responsible for the proper construction. In no case have I heard any complaints about this work. In fact, if we had more camps, we could have constructed 1,000 more small dams, such was the demand for the Water Conservation Program in North Dakota.

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F I E L D      T O U R S

On October 21, Mr. Paul Underwood, County Agent at Redfield, accompanied by a group of Spink County farmers, went to the erosion control demonstration area near Wolsey where they were met by representatives of the Soil Conservation Service and conducted on a tour of the Project. These farmers are expecting to organize a Voluntary Soil Conservation Association in their own community.

Professor L. F. Fuhr of the Agronomy Department, State College, Brookings, South Dakota, brought his advanced Soils Class to Huron on October 30 and spent the day in a study of the methods of soil conservation and erosion control.

Groups of interested people who would like to make a tour of the demonstration projects are invited to let the office of the Soil Conservation Service know in advance so that guides may be provided for their convenience. Remember that "seeing is Believing" and that a trip over the erosion control project may help you to save a good farm home.

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RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT

Radio programs are presented by members of the Soil Conservation Staff as follows:

Every Thursday at 1:15 P. M., KGDY, Huron, S. Dakota.

Every Saturday at 12:45 P. M., KPDY, Brookings, S. Dakota.

Tune in for up-to-the-minute news and discussions of the soil conservation program in your own neighborhood.



ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF COOPERATORS

SINCE THE LAST REPORT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner or Tenant</u>	<u>Land Description</u>
Wallace, John	Iroquois	Owner	Part of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5-112-59
Glennon, Mrs. D. C.	Huron	Owner	W $\frac{1}{2}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14-112-61
Brent, George	Carpenter	Owner	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 15-114-59
Madsen, Mynus	Carpenter	Owner	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19-114-59
			SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18-114-59
Ratliff, James	Carpenter	Tenant	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19-114-60 and
Ratliff, James	Carpenter	Owner	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24-114-59
Menson, Herman Adm.	Carpenter	Owner	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14-114-59 and
			S $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 11-114-59
Maass, Will	Carpenter	Tenant	Part of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5-112-59
Chicago & NW R. R.	Chicago	Owner	
Farmers & Merchants			
Savings Bank	Minneapolis	Owner	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6-112-59
Paye, Horace	Cavour	Owner	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and
			SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 6-109-60
Davis, Wm. M.	Yale	Tenant	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 23-112-60
Davis, Emmett	Yale	Owner	
Beach & Dickinson	Huron	Owner	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5-112-59
LeClaire, Leon	Carpenter	Owner	E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 13-114-59
Davis, Frank	Yale	Tenant	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14-111-60
Baldrige, J.	(Attorney-in-Fact)		
Wicks, Wallace	Carpenter	Tenant	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 15-114-59
Wicks, Mrs.	Carpenter	Adm.	
Lindquist, Lloyd	Yale	Owner	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 15-111-60
Martin, E. F.	Cavour	Owner	N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 32-111-60
Roberts, Charles	Wolsey	Owner	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 29-111-63
Whittehoft, Ernest	Wolsey	Owner	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 27-112-64
Haeder, Otto	Yale	Tenant	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13-111-64 and
Equitable Life Assu.			
Company	Huron	Owner	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24-111-64
Likeness, Allen	Wolsey	Tenant	E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 13-111-63
Likeness, Martha	Wolsey	Owner	
Haeder, Richard	Yale	Tenant	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 3 -111-64
Musolf, W. F.	Yale	Owner	
Minium, Bert	Wolsey	Tenant	Part of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 15-112-64
Minium, Guy	Wolsey	Owner	
Pribyl, Richard	Wolsey	Tenant	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 22-112-64
Pribyl Estate		Owner	
Fry, William	Wolsey	Tenant	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19-111-63
Wiltz, Mrs. Bert	Huron	Owner	
Reineke, Herman	Wolsey	Tenant	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and
Joint Land Stock Bank	Minneapolis	Owner	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 4-110-63
Heitland, Herman	Wolsey	Tenant	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13, and
(an estate)			NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14-111-64
Schnetzer, S. J.	Wolsey	Owner	All of Sec. 5-112-64
Uselding, William	Wolsey	Tenant	S $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 9-112-64, and
Uselding, Nellie	Wolsey	Owner	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 16-112-64, and
			N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 17-112-64

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Total number of farms under contract - 175 , including 42,921 acres.

Total number of applications not worked - 152 , including 41,465 acres.

# AMONG OURSELVES

Huron, South Dakota  
October 7, 1935.

Mr. H. J. Clemmer, Regional Director,  
Huron, South Dakota.

Dear Mr. Clemmer:

I wish to thank you, and those that work in the Soil Conservation Program for their loyal and kind cooperation, and to assure you my appreciation for advice and help extended so far. I sincerely believe by working together, we understand each other better, by doing so, will accomplish desired results, also be rewarded for time and money spent.

Wishing you and all connected with this Soil Erosion work abundant success. Always glad to see you people and talk matters over.

Yours very truly,

Signed -- J. J. Docker.

When Mrs. Alex Stenson, living in the area of the Winner-Dixon, South Dakota Project, was interviewed, she said, when asked what she thought of the work of the Soil Conservation Service: "Well, it has surely been a great help to us. Living here has been something awful with the dust ruining everything. We just didn't know where to begin to do anything, there was so much dirt piled around. But the men did a good job in cleaning up the drifted soil and we think we know what we are going to do now. We had about decided to move away but we are not thinking about that now.

Mr. Murice Renot in the same neighborhood said: "There was no way that I could clean out the soil drifts. It was too big a job for one man. I am surely pleased with what the Soil Conservation Service is doing to help me. I shall be glad to do anything they want me to do on this farm. I know what soil erosion is, for I used to live in Mississippi where the soil is so badly washed."

It was a heartening experience to see these good buildings, gardens, and machinery being dug out of the soil drifts. The soil was being spread back on the fields and, after listing, crops would be planted to hold the soil in place. With these severe wounds healed and the scars covered over by growing crops that country will be a good country again and have prosperous farmers living in the comfortable homes.

It means a lot to help folks save their homes, because "there is no place like home."

## CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS.

Company 2770, C. C. C. has arrived in Huron, South Dakota, from Valley City, North Dakota. The Company consists of 198 C. C. C. workers who will be housed and cared for in some of the State Fair Buildings.

The C. C. C. Camps were established by the Federal Government for the purpose of providing homes for young men without employment and whose families are unfortunate enough to be on the relief rolls. These young men are housed, fed and plainly clothed by the Government and given employment on conservation projects where the results of their labor will be of value to the community or public generally.

The health of the C. C. C. workers is given special attention. It has been reported that the average gain in weight per individual man over a period of six months in the camps of an entire state was 18 pounds. Wholesome food, regular hours, and rugged outdoor employment are just the things needed to build sturdy, young men of character.

The C. C. C. camps are not military organizations although they are in charge of army officers of a high type who know how to care for men in camps. The army officers assigned to the camp are a Company Commander, Assistant Company Commander, and a Medicine Officer. The technical staff is entirely civilian and consists of a Camp Superintendent, Engineers, technical Agricultural men, a Mechanic, and non-technical foremen.

The C. C. C. workers receive \$30. per month pay, \$25. of which is sent home to the families of the men to reduce the relief rolls.

The Civilian Conservation Corps program does three important things:

- First. It provides homes for young men who might otherwise be wandering and homeless, gives them an opportunity to earn an honest living, and develops healthy bodies and good characters.
- Second. It accomplishes much in the way of soil conservation, water conservation, and flood control, all of which are of community value.
- Third. It enables young men to earn wages and help to support members of their families who are unemployed.

The young men who are to spend the winter in Huron will be employed in the building of dams to conserve water and prevent floods when the heavy rains come again as well as to assist in the soil conservation program. They are an integral part of the great peace-time army engaged in defending the nation against soil ruin.



The following letter, copied verbatim, tells how the C. C. C. program is regarded in North Dakota where at least seven camps have been employed on soil and water conservation projects:

CITY OF LaMOURE  
LaMoure, North Dakota

September 23, 1935

Mr. A. D. McKinnon,  
State Administrator,  
Soil Conservation Dept.,  
Bismarck, North Dakota.

Dear Mr. McKinnon:

The rubble masonry Dam, constructed by the C. C. C. contingent at LaMoure, having been completed, on behalf of the citizens of this City and Community, permit me to express our sincere appreciation for the excellent and substantial type of construction. That the Dam will be of a permanent benefit to this territory is certain.

Under the able engineering supervision of Mr. H. F. Wiñh, in charge, the work progressed smoothly and with precision. The individual members of the C. C. C. group conducted themselves as gentlemen while in our City and it is with regret that we see them transferred.

We are deeply indebted to your department and to all others in charge for having carried through to completion such a worthwhile project.

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. Robideau  
Mayor.

CJR\*IAN

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Soil, water, and sunshine are the three essentials for crop production. The waste of top soil and the waste of the water which falls upon it, or of the water which lies deep beneath it are extravagances which no nation can afford.  
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H.V.W.

## GOING UP IN SMOKE

There are still farms in the northern Great Plains on which straw, stalks, and stubble are being burned in spite of the fact that we should have learned long ago that such a practice is wasteful and destructive.

These so-called "waste" materials, when plowed under, are the chief means of maintaining the soil organic material, loss of which reduces the absorptive and water-holding power of the soil while allowing the soil to break down into small granules or separate grains easily moved by wind or running water, thus making soil erosion easy. Continuation of this practice will add to the millions of acres of once good land already ruined.

No soil conservation program can be permanently effective unless it provides for the maintenance of the organic matter supply in the soil.

Question: - Has your farm been going up in smoke?

J. G. H.

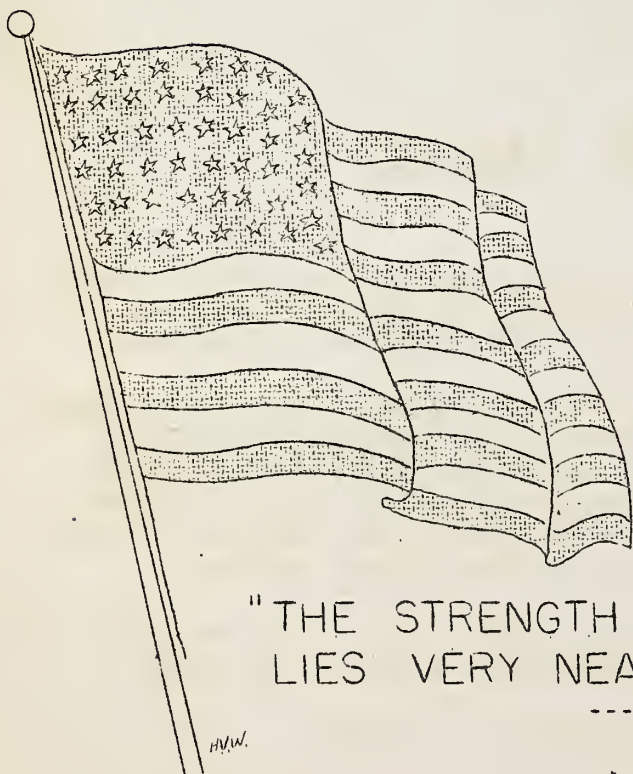
( "Zephyr" - Oct. '35)

UNITED STATES  
Department of Agriculture  
Soil Conservation Service

H. J. Clemmer, Regional Director  
Huron, South Dakota.

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Official Business



"THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION  
LIES VERY NEAR THE SOIL"

----- DANIEL WEBSTER